6/29/73

Dear Dick,

Roy phoned last night to apologize for not having returned my notes/short drafts. His secretary had forgotten. I guess I should have them Monday. There is no real loss in time because I used the time for the organization of these enormous files. About 80% completed. And for a little more research, which has yielded some really important information that makes a reasonable inference that Nixon had an association with a planned assassination, a much earlier and much different one with Hunt and others, and that Hunt also had associations with other characters in this story not yet disclosed. Because one has already testified, it appears that this one has hidden the relationship. Real bigshot, too.

What has evolved since we spoke makes no real difference in the book. It merely provides overkill in what I was going to write, overproof in the area of Gestapo-like policy and actions. As of now, my estimate of the significance of the Dean testimony was accurate and I have the confidence I expressed in the importance of Hunt's, the one remaining appearance that I can visualize making some difference in the book. Meaning both organization and contents. The date is not firm, so I can t tell you when to expect it. However, this will not interfere with the writing, which I will start as soon as I get the material back from Roy, regardless of the condition of the files. Except for interruptions I can't anticipate, I stick by my estimate of five weeks' writing time for a rough draft, ready for editing. I know of two days that must be spent on other matters this coming week, at least one the next, one each on the en banc rehearing on one of my Freedom of Information suits. Because Gross wants that it, it is no loss to the book, merely two days of delay.

My wife has notified her few private bookkeeping accounts that she must have from them whatever they have that they want her to complete in the next six weeks early next week. She has also notified her block-franchise employer that he may have to replace her for the rest of the summer. Thus if the deal goes through, she can be available for retyping, etc. I have located a young man who can keep the place mowed, which is essential to prevent serious loss and later costs and to deter the proliferation of poison ivy, etc. Keeping up with this takes me some time every non-rainy day. Roy offered to pay the cost of two week's work if my wife would have taken them off on my return. However, this would not have been or real value prior to her having something to retype and would have been unkind to her employer, who is ill and under severe nervous strains from matters outside his control or influencing. Ray's purpose was to enable me to get down to the actual writing faster.

Because I believe the new developments to date improve domestic market possibilities, because I believe that with an outline I could make a Feltrinelli deal and because I believe more than ever that the market prospects demand a fast book, I am concerned about making the fastest possible time consistent with responsibility once I begin writing. Until we have a replacement of the loss income my wife can't stop, no real problem until about the time Gross should have an answer. What can cost some time is not having the NCR paper I asked you to inquire about. It is not available locally except in bulk, which runs the cost up and eliminates the advantage in time of the glued sets. (Both typing and correcting/editing.) Most major newspapers use this today. As they do, there is the added advantage of an almost automatic word count by counting the pages. So, I'd appreciate hearing from you on this.

Gross is not leaving until tomorrow now. If I heard from Feltrinelli, I'll let you know. Mollenhoff apparently is not working on a book now because he is making daily appearances at the committee sessions. I see him on camera.

Best to everyone,